CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended)

A method of preparing a radiographic contrast medium comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing a phospholipid, a supercritical carbon dioxide or a subcritical carbon dioxide and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a phospholipid modified with a polyalkylene oxide, and a compound containing a polyoxyalkylene group, to form a mixture; and

(b) bringing a water-soluble nonionic iodine compound into contact with the phospholipid to form a liposome comprised of vesicles including the iodine compound, ~~with substantially no chlorinated solvent~~ having no chlorinated solvents in an amount of not more than 10 μg per liter.

22. (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 21, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(a) mixing the phospholipid with the supercritical carbon dioxide or the subcritical carbon dioxide and the at least one compound to form a mixture,

(b) introducing an aqueous solution containing a nonionic iodine compound into the mixture and

(c) discharging the carbon dioxide to form a liposome comprised of vesicles including the iodine compound.

23. (Original)

The method of claim 21, wherein step (a), the carbon dioxide is under a pressure of 50 to 500 kg/cm^2.

24. (Original)

The method of claim 21, wherein in step (a), the carbon dioxide is under a temperature of 25 to 200 °C.

25. (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a), a sterol is further mixed to form said mixture; the method further comprises

(d) filtering the liposome with a filter having 0.1 to 0.4 μm pores.

26. (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a), the at least one compound is the phospholipid modified with a polyalkylene oxide, and a sterol is further mixed; in step (b), an additive is further introduced; and the method further comprises

(d) filtering the liposome with a filter having of 0.1 to 0.4 μm pores,

and wherein the vesicles which comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, are dispersed in an aqueous medium, both of the water phase and the aqueous medium contain the iodine compound and the additive and each of an iodine compound concentration and an additive concentration is substantially the same in both of the water phase and the aqueous medium.

27. (Previously Presented)

A contrast medium comprises liposomes comprised of vesicles of phospholipids having therein water-soluble nonionic iodine compound, the contrast medium prepared by the process of claim 21.

28. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the liposome comprises at least 80% unilamellar vesicles.

29. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the iodine compound contains at least one 2,4,6-triiodophenyl group.

30. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles have an average vesicle size of 0.05 to 0.5 μm.

31. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the average vesicle size is 0.05 to 0.2 μm.

32. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the average vesicle is 0.11 to 0.13 μm.

33. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane modified with a polyethylene glycol having 10 to 3500 oxyethylene units in an amount of 0.1% to 30% by weight, based on lipid forming the vesicles.

34. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the liposome is one which has been filtered with a filter having 0.1 to 0.4 μm pores.

35. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles include the iodine compound in a weight ratio of the iodine compound to vesicular membrane lipid of 1 to 10.

36. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the weight ratio is 3 to 8.

37. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the weight ratio is 5 to 8.

38. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the iodine compound included in the vesicles accounts for 5% to 30% by weight of a total iodine compound amount of the contrast medium.

39. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, the lipid membrane contains the compound containing a polyoxyalkylene group and a sterol and the water phase contains the iodine compound.

40. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, the lipid membrane contains the phospholipid modified with a polyalkylene oxide and the water phase contains the iodine compound.

41. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles each comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, the lipid membrane contains the compound containing a polyoxyalkylene group and the compound containing a polyoxyalkylene group is a block copolymer of polyethylene oxide and polypropylene oxide, and the water phase contains the iodine compound.

42. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 27, wherein the vesicles which comprise a lipid membrane and a water phase included inside the lipid membrane, are dispersed in an aqueous medium, both of the water phase and the aqueous medium contain the iodine compound and an additive and each of an iodine compound concentration and

an additive concentration is substantially the same in both of the water phase and the aqueous medium.

43. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 42, wherein the additive is a water-soluble amine type buffering agent or a chelating agent.

44. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 43, wherein the amine type buffering agent is trometamol.

45. (Previously Presented)

The contrast medium of claim 43, wherein the chelating agent is EDTA disodium calcium.

46. (Withdrawn)

The method of Claim 21 wherein the mixing step includes mixing ethanol with the phospholipid and carbon dioxide.